

Social Sciences

Cultural Resources Training

Overview

This training consists of eight modules and a reference handbook. Modules 1-7 cover the protection of cultural resources, consideration of cultural resources in conservation planning, and identification of cultural resources in the field. Module 8 is a field trip study designed to give trainees experience in field survey techniques including recognizing, identifying, and documenting cultural resources indicators.

Objectives

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. define cultural resources.
2. explain why NRCS considers cultural resources.
3. describe NRCS policy and procedures for protecting cultural resources.
4. list public benefits gained from protecting cultural resources.
5. describe how to identify cultural resources by conducting a cultural resources review and survey.
6. develop and maintain an information file for use in determining the presence of cultural resources.
7. document action taken to protect cultural resources.
8. define National Register of Historic Places criteria.
9. describe the action that should be taken when cultural resources are encountered during construction.

Prerequisites

None - Modules 1 and 2 of this training series are also contained in the training series, RES CON - Conservation for New Employees. Participants who have reviewed Modules 1 and 2 within the last 3 months may begin with Module 3 of this series.

Duration

4 days, 1 - 2 days of self-study for Modules 1 - 7 and 2 days for Module 8

Eligibility

All NRCS personnel who provide technical assistance to cooperators or who are involved in water resource planning will benefit from this training.

Social Sciences

Sociological Training

Overview

This self-study training makes employees aware of opportunities to use sociological concepts in persuading and assisting the public to conserve natural resources.

Objectives

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

1. explain the ways in which sociological principles help NRCS personnel relate more effectively to NRCS clientele.
2. identify people most likely to use innovations and associate adoption of innovations with specific characteristics of individuals, farms and ranches, and the innovations.
3. develop marketing plans for getting conservation practices and projects implemented.
4. identify sources of social information and develop general social inventories as well as detailed social profiles of farmers and ranchers in a community.
5. discuss three methods to identify community leaders, describe leadership styles and techniques of facilitating successful group meetings.
6. explain the causes and mechanics of conflicts and describe techniques to manage and resolve conflicts.

Prerequisites

None

Duration

Approximately eight hours of self-study are required to complete the series. If training is presented in a group setting, more time may be required.

Eligibility

Soil conservation technicians, soil conservationists, district conservationists, project staff, and RC&D coordinators will benefit from this training.

Other Information

This is a self-study training package designed to bring trainees to ASK Level 2. If used in conjunction with more intensive leader-led sessions, higher ASK levels can be attained.